

Inquiries of the Ministry

Combines Investigation Act and the statutory duty of the officers in my department to examine into this sort of matter.

Mr. Flemming: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I draw to the attention of the minister the latter part of the question that I put last week to the Minister of Justice, which was to this effect: Has the same type of investigation been made of newspapers and newspaper proprietors in other parts of Canada? There was never any question about courtesy. There was never any question about the right of his officials to do what they did. It is the question of discrimination with which I am concerned.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would suggest that we are perhaps getting into the field of debate here. However, the minister may wish to reply to that supplementary question.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, there is no question of discrimination. The Director of Investigation and Research is carrying out his statutory duties which are laid down in the Combines Investigation Act. I do not have in front of me the details of other inquiries, but I do know that the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has conducted, over the last few years, three inquiries into the proprietors of newspapers.

Mr. Flemming: A further supplementary question. I should like to ask on whose complaint the investigation was initiated, and whether any complaint has been made with regard to any other newspaper proprietors in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Again, I have some doubt about this supplementary. If it is felt that the minister should reply out of particular consideration for the hon. member who asked the question, then perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the inquiry was conducted pursuant to section 8 (b) of the Combines Investigation Act. As the House knows, under the policy laid down by the former Minister of Justice from Kamloops, British Columbia, it is not the general practice to reveal details of inquiries that are being conducted under the Combines Investigation Act. However, in this case the inquiry was made public by the people being inquired into.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): A supplementary question, Mr. [Mr. Basford.]

Speaker. May I ask the minister whether a member of the Senate of Canada from the province of New Brunswick is on the board which decided upon that prosecution?

Mr. Basford: No, Mr. Speaker.

HARBOURSREQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
SMALL VESSEL REGULATIONS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to ask the Minister of Transport. I have gone through two earlier Ministers of Transport on this question but I hope I will get an answer from this minister.

Just before the summer recess, I asked the minister whether he would make a statement to the House on the government's plans with regard to a small vessel harbour administration on the British Columbia coast. The minister said at that time that he would do his best to make a statement before the recess. Could he now make that statement to the House?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I might say, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend will find it more difficult to go through me than any of my predecessors. However, may I apologize to the hon. member; the statement is not yet ready. The reason is the complexity of trying to work out an equitable solution.

Briefly, I think I can say that we are prepared to do something in this regard. It is a matter of user charges and whether all those wealthy yachtsmen on the west coast of Canada have the right to have these services free or, frankly, whether we should nail them.

FISHERIESSEALS—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON
HEARINGS OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Is the Minister of Justice now ready to report on the hearings of the Fisheries Committee concerning its investigation into the seal fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the last time the hon. member put that question to me I again looked into the matter. I want to be able to report to him in some detail later.